Have a Fire – Safe Holiday Season

It's fun to decorate for the winter holidays, but holiday decorations can increase your risk for a home fire. As you deck the halls this season, be fire smart.

Following a few simple fire safety tips can help ensure that you and your loved ones have a fire-safe holiday season.

- **Christmas Trees:**

  Make sure your Christmas tree is at least 3 feet away from heat sources like fire places, space heaters, heat vents, and candles.
  - 1 in every 6 Christmas tree fires is caused by a heat source that is too close.
  - Get rid of your tree after Christmas or when it is dry.

- **Holiday Lighting:**
  Inspect holiday lights each year for frayed wires, bare spots and excessive kinking or wear before putting them up. Connect strings of lights to an extension cord before plugging the cord into the outlet.
  - One of every three home Christmas tree fires are caused by electrical problems.

- **Candle Care:**
  Consider using battery – operated flameless candles, which can look, smell and feel like real candles. If you do use lit candles, make sure they are in stable holders, and place them where they cannot be knocked down easily.

- **Candle Fires by the Numbers:**
  - 55% of home candle fires start because the candle is too close to combustible materials.
  - 20% of candle fires begin when candles are unattended or abandoned.
  - 36% of home candle fires begin in the bedroom, more than in any other room.
  - 40% of home decoration fires are started by candles.

- **Top Five Days for Home Candle Fires:**
  - Christmas Day
  - Christmas Eve
  - New Year's Day
  - Halloween
  - December 23rd